

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808-586-3775 Fax: 808-586-3776

FOR: SB 832 Relating to Education
DATE: Friday, February 6, 2015
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 229
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 832, "Relating to Education," which would allow a charter school student who is currently enrolled at a public charter school that has been notified of the prospect of revocation or nonrenewal, or is closing, to enroll in a Department of Education school outside of the student's service area.

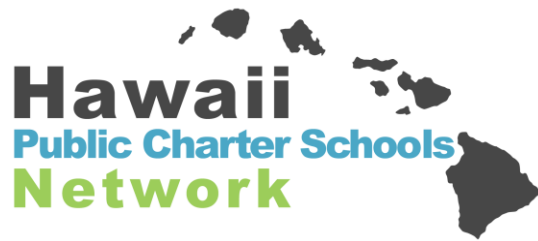
This measure seeks to address the needs to students and their parents who have been or will be displaced due to the closure or impending closure of a public charter school due to revocation of the school's charter contract. The Commission's concern is to ensure that students and their families who are affected by such an event be given as much opportunity and assistance as our public school system can afford in making this difficult transition easier, including consideration for a geographic exception.

This bill is not intended to provide such charter school students with an automatic advantage over other students seeking a geographic exception. Rather, it would grant the receiving school's principal the discretion to consider the urgency of the affected student's situation when making a decision.

We would respectfully request that the bill be revised to delete the reference to nonrenewal. The nonrenewal of a charter school's charter contract would occur through a contract renewal/nonrenewal process with plenty of advance notice, and thus would not present the

same time exigencies for families as does a revocation, which by definition is occurring under urgent circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Education

DATE: Monday, February 9, 2015

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee,

Re: HB 832 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **in support** of HB 832, a bill that aims to allow a public charter school student who has been notified of the prospect of charter revocation, nonrenewal or school closure, to enroll in a school outside of the student's service area.

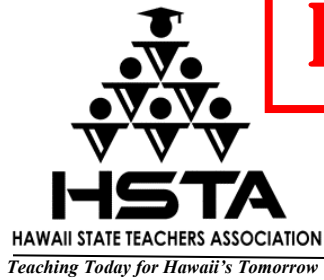
In the very unfortunate case when a charter school has been notified of revocation, nonrenewal or closure, HPCSN supports the effort to make the transition for charter school students and their families to a new school as easy and seamless as possible.

Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) represents 30 of 34 public charter schools in Hawaii and is committed to quality education for all public school students in Hawaii through our support of, and work with, Hawaii's public charter schools.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan".

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director



LATE

LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

RE: H.B. 832 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, Honorable Vice Chair Takashi Ohno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports H.B. 832**, relating to education.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. HSTA is the state affiliate, of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association.

Over 20 years ago, the state of Hawai'i committed itself to embracing the educational innovations made possible outside of the Department of Education by enacting public charter school legislation.

Since then, the state has further committed itself by enacting legislation to expand our public charter school system.

The legislation before you provides our public charter school system the assistance needed to be the best it can be. HSTA supports innovation in public education. The core assumptions that inform the charter school concepts - innovation, autonomy, and accountability - indicate that charter schools have the potential to facilitate positive change and should be qualitatively different from what is available in mainstream public schools.

As such, on behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, the Hawai'i State Teachers' Association stands in **support of H.B. 832**.